

FY 2006

Assistive Technology

State Plan Update

Part I and Part II

**Michigan Department of Labor & Economic
Growth
Michigan Rehabilitation Services
201 N. Washington Square
Lansing, Michigan 48933**

Part I: Attachments

OMB Control Number: 1820-0664
Expiration Date: 10/31/2008

Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency: Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG)

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency: Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Address of Lead Agency: 201 N. Washington Square, 4th Floor, P.O. Box 30010, Lansing, MI 48909

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency: Robert W. Swanson, Department Director

Address for Certifying Representative: see above

Telephone for Certifying Representative: (517) 373-1820

E-mail for Certifying Representative:

Name and Title of Program Director: Harold Wasner, Manager, Policy, Planning and Agreements

Address for Program Director: 201 N. Washington Square, 4th Floor, P.O. Box 30010, Lansing, MI 48909

Telephone for Program Director: 517/373-6685

E-mail for Program Director: wasnerh@michigan.gov

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director): Not Applicable

Address for Program Director: Not Applicable

Telephone for Program Director: Not Applicable

E-mail for Program Director: Not Applicable

Name of Implementing Entity: Michigan Disability Rights Coalition

State: Michigan

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Implementing Entity: Not Applicable

Address of Implementing Entity: 780 W. Lake Lansing Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, MI 48823

Name and Title of Program Director: Kathryn Wyeth, Associate Director
Address for Program Director: see above

Telephone for Program Director: (517) 333-2477 ext. 335

E-mail for Program Director: kdwyeth@prosynergy.org

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director):

Address for Program Director: see above

Telephone for Program Director: see above

E-mail for Program Director: see above

Attachment 2: Lead Agency and Implementing Entity

2.1 Identification and Description of the Lead Agency - Identify and describe the Lead Agency referred to in section 4(c)(1)(A) of the AT Act.

2.1A Identification and Description of Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is not Designated

Not Applicable

2.1B Identification and Description of the Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is Designated

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) has acted as the lead agency for the Statewide Assistive Technology Program (AT Program) for the State of Michigan since 1991. The mission of MRS is to assist individuals with disabilities into employment and self-sufficiency. MRS's guiding principles include: customer-centeredness, equity, advocacy, collaboration, accountability, and continuous improvement. MRS will continue as the Lead Agency of the program under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended. An MRS staff member oversees the implementation of the AT Program by the Implementing Entity, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC).

MRS, Michigan's general vocational rehabilitation program, is a part of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG). In 2003, Governor Jennifer Granholm created DLEG to promote job creation and economic growth in Michigan by centralizing and streamlining the state's job, workforce, and economic development functions under one department. Each year, approximately 7,000 Michigan residents with disabilities are assisted into jobs through MRS services. DLEG also houses the Michigan Commission for the Blind, the Michigan Commission for Disability Concerns, the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and provides oversight to Michigan's Centers for Independent Living (CILs). MRS, through its work with CILs and a network of local offices operates programs that meet the needs of all people with disabilities regardless of age, geographic location, and income or disability type. DLEG and MRS maintain strong links to the Department of Education, especially in programs that concern youth and transition services. In addition MRS and DLEG cooperate with the Department of Health and Human Services

which implements Michigan's Medicaid Program and the Michigan Department of Community Health which oversees services to Michigan's citizens on Medicaid in programs related to the Ticket to Work and Work Improvement Act, especially the Medicaid "buy-in" provisions, and Welfare-to-Work programs.

2.2 Identification and Description of the Implementing Entity – Identify and describe the Implementing Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act, if such an Implementing Entity is designated by the Governor.

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit established in 1982. MDRC is a statewide, cross-disability network of individuals and organizations that advances the issues of Michigan's disability community through grassroots activism, public education and advocacy. MDRC works to build opportunities for people with disabilities so they may live fully integrated lives within their chosen communities, now and in the future. Full citizenship is the expected role that people with disabilities will play, and their hopes and dreams parallel those of citizens without disabilities.

A majority of MDRC's Board of Directors are people with disabilities who either use AT or have family members who use AT. The majority of MDRC's staff are people with disabilities. Many of MDRC's staff work from virtual office settings and are a part of the disability community in their local areas; thus they are familiar with local community issues throughout the state.

A key component of MDRC's work is building coalitions with other agencies, advocacy groups, disability organizations, and other groups and organizations throughout the state. MDRC is a partner in the State Plan for Independent Living, Disability Voice and co-signer of the Common Disability Agenda. As home to the state AT Program since 1997, MDRC has worked closely with representatives of state agencies, including Michigan Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

MDRC has developed and presented numerous training and demonstration programs on Assistive Technology throughout the state and worked for systems change at the state and local levels. MDRC has subcontracted with up to 26 community councils on AT at one time and with numerous groups for mini-programs which promoted access and availability of AT throughout the state. Most people know the AT program more for its impact in their local area through subcontracts with other groups.

MDRC subcontracts with United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan to administer the Alternative Financing Program—Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund and the TeleWork Loan Fund. Members of MDRC's Board of Directors serve on and select members of the programs' Advisory Councils and Loan Committees. United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan works with application sites throughout the state, processes applications, provides follow-up to applicants, works on issues of continuation and permanence and publicizes the availability of the program.

In addition, MDRC subcontracts with many local non-profits, including many Centers for Independent Living, with strong histories and ties to the disability community. These nonprofits provide information and advocacy related to AT as well as transportation, housing, community living, education, and telecommunication/informational technology (IT). MDRC will continue to subcontract with these important, reputable partners. Specific partners will be identified during the planning process to assure comprehensive, statewide access to and acquisition of AT devices and services.

2.3 Show of Good Cause for Change in Lead Agency or Implementing Entity

– If the Governor has chosen to change the Lead Agency or, if applicable, Implementing Entity as allowed in section 4(c)(1)(C) of the AT Act, provide an explanation of good cause for this redesignation.

Not Applicable

Attachment 3: State Advisory Council

3.1 Membership of the Advisory Council - Identify the members of the Advisory Council and each member's designation as an individual with disabilities who uses AT, a family member or guardian of such individual, or a representative of a State agency or other entity.

Members of the Advisory Council:

Al Swain, uses AT

Elisabeth Godin, uses AT

Barb Barton, uses AT

Christy Meister, uses AT

Marcia Boehm, uses AT

John Victory, uses AT

Roxanne Balfour, represents Michigan Department of Education

Mike Zelley, represents Michigan Workforce Investment Board, uses AT

Roger Yake, represents Michigan Commission for the Blind

Glen Ashlock, represents Centers for Independent Living, uses AT

Harold Wasner, represents Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth,
Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

The Advisory Council will provide consumer-driven advice to MDRC for planning and implementing the activities of Michigan's Statewide AT Program. The Advisory Council has 11 members. Six of the members are people with disabilities who use AT or their family members. The remaining five members represent state agencies. Some of the agency representatives also use AT. Members of the Advisory Council reside in counties throughout the state ensuring representation from both rural and urban areas of Michigan.

3.2 Structure and Operation of the Advisory Council – Describe the structure and operations of the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council represents the assistive technology needs of Michigan's citizens and provides input for Michigan's State Plan for Assistive Technology. The membership and structure of the Advisory Council complies with the requirements of the Assistive Technology Act of 2004. The members were selected by the state agencies and through Michigan Disability Rights Coalition's membership and community contacts. Many of the members who use AT on this

Council have previously served as advising consumers for the AT Program under the previous Act.

The Advisory Council members will serve three-year terms to coincide with the State Plan and will meet at least twice a year. They will meet face-to-face if possible and, since Michigan has vast geographic distances and the council represents this, teleconferencing will also be made available. Notes from these meetings will be recorded. An interactive email list will be established to provide regular updates on the program, and a forum for discussion of program goals and AT-related needs and events in the state will be created. Regular updates on progress and quarterly reports will be shared with the group via a listserv.

There will not be a formal chairperson of this council. Recommendations from this group will be decided upon by consensus or vote at the discretion of the members in attendance. The members will also determine the need for subcommittees on a case-by-case basis and will elect members of any proposed subcommittees. The program directors of the implementing agency in consultation with the program director of the lead agency will set the agenda for the meetings with input and agreement of council members. The agenda will always include an update on the AT Program including applicable data when available.

Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

MDRC will establish a baseline for each of the goals 4.1 through 4.7 during year two, and will submit after year two an amendment identifying the long term goal and short-term goals set to improve upon this baseline data during year three and subsequent years of the State Plan. This baseline will be established by using a data collection instrument and procedures to be determined by RSA after the State Plan process has been completed.

4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish a baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: Data collection system not yet established.

4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish a baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
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4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish a baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and made a decision about an AT device or

service for community living as a result of the assistance they received.

- Short-term goal for Year 1: Data collection system not yet established

4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish a baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/Telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: Data collection system not yet established.

4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed State financing activities or reutilization programs and obtained an AT device or service for education who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: Data collection system not yet established

4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed State financing activities or reutilization programs and obtained an AT device or service for employment who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: Data collection system not yet established.

4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed State financing activities or reutilization programs and obtained an AT device or service for community living who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: Data collection system not yet established.

4.8 Additional Measurable Goals -- If applicable, describe any measurable goals that the State has set in addition to the goals established in items 4.1 through 4.7 for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State related to education, employment, community living, and telecommunications and information technology.

Not Applicable

Attachment 5: State-level Activities

5.1 State Financing Activities – Describe how the State will implement State financing activities as described in section 4(e)(2)(A) of the AT Act.

Michigan is claiming comparability for state financing activities.

5.2 Device Reutilization Program Describe how the State will implement a device reutilization program as described in section 4(e)(2)(B) of the Act.

Over the next three years, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition will administer directly The AT Xchange (ATX), a program that allows individuals to buy, sell, or give away used AT through “classified ads.” The website will include links to other potential reutilization sites, like the Kansas Equipment Exchange and eBay. Through this website, consumers will be able to acquire AT for education, community living, and employment. The address for this website will be <http://www.atxchange.org>. The website will be operational by the end of year 1 and will continue to be improved in years 2 and 3 of the State plan.

Michigan has chosen to adopt the model prepared by Agoranet, in order to split costs with other states. Therefore, most of the features of the site will be consistent with other state’s AT Program web exchange site. Michigan will continually monitor for enhancements needed to improve the user’s experience with the exchange process.

If an individual has an AT device he or she no longer needs and would like to either sell or give away (a “seller”), he or she will contact ATX through its accessible web site to request to post an ad. ATX will respond to all requests by sending an email to the seller explaining the terms of the listing, which include:

- ATX does not warrant the condition of the device
- ATX accepts no liability that may result between the transaction of the buyer and the seller
- The seller agrees to provide ATX with the original price and the sold price of the item and the contact information of the buyer
- The seller provides ATX with a description of the device along with any special features
- No personal information is listed on the ATX except for first name, city and county

- The seller must renew the listing on a regular interval or the item will automatically be removed from the list

Once the seller has provided the appropriate information, the device is listed in the ATX. Used AT devices will be listed by category and be accompanied by a brief description of the device and the asking price. Pictures will be encouraged.

A brief list highlighting items available will be included in the Project's monthly electronic Newsletter, which is e-mailed to disability-related agencies/organizations and consumers. ATLF local sites will publicize the availability of the website at the 20 locations throughout the state. The AT Program will also use its extensive network of collaborators to spread the word about this resource. Plans to promote the web site will be developed in year one and implementation will begin in year two.

If an individual with a disability or family member is looking for a used device (a "buyer"), he or she will contact ATX using the same methods as the seller. If a buyer locates a device to purchase, he or she will e-mail the seller through an online form or call the seller directly through information on the website. The seller and buyer will negotiate the terms of exchanging the device, including price and shipping, between themselves without any involvement of ATX. ATX will contact the buyer and seller for a follow-up survey, however.

Anyone in the state will be able to sell or buy an AT device through ATX, and there will be no limitations on the type of AT device that can be listed in want ads (except that the site can't be used, for example, to sell health insurance). Our device reutilization program will also be comprehensive in nature. All types of AT devices will be listed for purchase or donation on the website. This includes but is not limited to devices for: seeing, hearing, talking, reaching, learning, socializing, mobility, and remembering. The program will only be limited by what devices the sellers themselves choose to make available.

ATX will help individuals with disabilities obtain AT devices in many ways. First, because the devices are used, sellers usually will offer them for free or at a low price, meaning they are more affordable. Second, individuals with disabilities do not need to meet eligibility criteria to obtain devices from ATX. Third, ATX will make available devices that are not covered by other private and public funding. Fourth, some devices made available will no longer be manufactured, so the ATX is one of a limited number of sources for such devices. Fifth, individuals with disabilities often will get devices sooner through the want ads than if they waited

for funding from public or private sources. Finally, the ATX site will also include easy linking to Michigan Loan Funds.

ATX will track the primary use of the device that is reused whether it is for employment, education, or community living. This will allow us to check our progress towards our measurable goals in those areas.

During year 2 the program will collect baseline data. Data will be collected according to the guidelines for federal reporting. Michigan will collect information from the seller/donor of the AT in collection of data.

During year 3, The program will evaluate the baseline data collected, review services available in each of the geographic areas, and with input from the Advisory Committee, determine areas for improvement and enhancement and make adjustments as needed to the comprehensive plan for improving access to demonstrations of AT in Education, Employment and Community Living.

5.3 Device Loan Program – Describe how the State will implement a device loan program as described in section 4(e)(2)(C) of the Act.

Michigan is invoking state flexibility and does not plan to operate a device loan program for the three years of this state plan. MDRC staff will begin planning to incorporate device loan information into the comprehensive internet-based device reutilization website beginning in the next state plan. Please see Attachment 7.

5.4 Device Demonstration Program – Describe how the State will implement a device demonstration program as described in section 4(e)(2)(D) of the Act.

The Assistive Technology Program will continue and expand its current Device Demonstration Program that directly and in collaboration with local partners demonstrates a variety of assistive technology devices and services. The program's Device Demonstration Program assists individuals in making informed choices regarding assistive technology by providing experiences with the devices and services using personnel who are familiar with such devices and services and their application.

MDRC, the program implementing entity, has relationships through contractual arrangements with groups throughout the state who provide AT demonstrations. Several collaborators have developed demonstration sites in their areas. The program's efforts will focus on gap-filling in areas that are under or unserved to

assure that device demonstrations are available to all individuals regardless of age, geographic location, or disability type.

Priority will be placed on supporting local sites in the unserved regions and then expanding opportunities in areas that currently have demonstration centers. MDRC will continue to build on existing resources and relationships through subcontracts with local sites spread throughout the state to build capacity to provide AT demonstrations. It is expected that a majority of the local contractors will be Centers for Independent Living around the state that have experience in explaining and promoting the use of AT in education, employment, community living and IT/Telecommunications. Information on device demonstration locations can be found at <http://www.copower.org/At/demo.htm>.

Five centers for independent living have received subcontracts to reach un-served and underserved areas. Community Connections located in Benton Harbor partnered with MSU's Resource Center for People with Disabilities. A Community Connections staff person/intern with a disability is completing a training internship with the MSU Center to learn to conduct demonstrations. They plan to design a system to use videoconferencing and/or webcasting to provide indirect demonstrations in the future also. The Wayne County Center for Independent Living and Cathy MacAdam, a contractor who is a member of the Wayne Community Assistive Technology Council, are working with the Detroit public schools, Wayne County Community College District career centers and disability service offices and Detroit Michigan Works to provide demonstrations of accessible computer-related AT with an outcome of improved education and employment. They have focused on AT which benefits people with learning disabilities related to reading and writing. The Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living is focusing on increasing demonstrations of adapted recreation (cycling) technology. They are collaborating with other groups and adding to their stock of devices to demonstrate. The Disability Network in Flint is focusing on reaching people who are underserved who live in group facilities or have significant cognitive disabilities. The Superior Alliance for Independent Living has partnered with UCP of Michigan's UP AT Assessment Center the to expand services throughout the UP, including outreach to Native Americans.

The Device Demonstration Program increases access to AT by providing individuals with information about and exposure to a variety of AT that may meet their needs. We will ensure that parents, professionals and individuals with disabilities who participate in device demonstrations are exposed to a variety of devices and have the opportunity to learn about the benefits of and differences

between those devices. The experiences will be guided by well-trained local staff so that those who access our program have information to help them make decisions about meeting their AT needs in all areas of life. We will track the types of AT demonstrated and whether participants' primary focus is on AT for employment, education, telecommunications/IT or community living. This will allow us to check our progress towards our measurable goals in those areas.

During Year 2 baseline data will be collected.

During year 3, the program will evaluate the baseline data collected, review services available in all areas of the state, and with input from the Advisory Committee, determine areas for improvement and enhancement and make adjustments as needed to the comprehensive plan for improving access to demonstrations of AT in Education, Employment, Community Living, and IT/Telecommunications.

Attachment 6: Comparable Support

6.1 Source and Amount of Support – Identify the State-level activity for which there is comparable support, the source of this support, the amount of the support, and the program year for which this support is being provided.

Michigan operates two alternative financing programs:

1) Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund (ATLF)

As of the end of Fiscal Year 2005, the fund had assets of \$212,362.63 which originated from non federal funds. These funds were a combination of private donations, foundation funding and interest which had accumulated in the fund since it started in 2001. In year one of the plan, the program received funding under Title III of the Tech Act of 1998, as amended. In year two, the plan will once again receive additional resources from both nonfederal sources (at least \$150,000) and Title III of the Tech Act of 1998. The amount of nonfederal support in both years is more than the AT Program can provide in years one and two. This will be reevaluated yearly.

2) Michigan Telework Loan Fund (TLF)

As of the end of Fiscal Year 2005, the fund had assets of \$69,586.39 which originated from non federal funds. These funds were a combination of private donations, foundation funding and interest which had accumulated in the fund since it was established in 2004. In year one of the plan, the program received funding under Title III of the Tech Act of 1998, as amended. In year two, sustainability plans include seeking additional donations of non federal funding to the TLF. The amount of nonfederal support in both years is more than the AT Program can provide in years one and two. This will be reevaluated yearly.

6.2 Comparability -- Demonstrate that this support is comparable in terms of funding and that the activities are comparable in terms of scope.

The Michigan Loan Fund has operated under title III of the AT Act of 1998 since 2001. The program has been a partnership between MDRC, United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan and the Financial Health Credit Union (FHCU) since its inception.

The Michigan ATLF increases access to and funding for assistive technology devices or services through a loan guarantee program. As of June 2005, the program had loaned out a total of almost \$1 million dollars in 173 loans. The ATLF allows people with disabilities and seniors (or their family members) to

purchase assistive technology devices or services, including modification of vehicles and homes. Loans may also cover the cost of training to use the purchased equipment, warranties, and service agreements. Consumers may use the ATLF to acquire AT for education, employment, and community living. The ATLF website (www.michiganloanfunds.org) contains frequently asked questions and information about the local sites at which consumers can apply for loan funds. Consumers may also call a toll free number to learn more about the ATLF (800-828-2714).

The ATLF is comprehensive and statewide, serving individuals with disabilities and their family members regardless of age, race, ethnicity, type of disability or type of AT needed. There are currently 20 ATLF sites around the State of Michigan including the Upper Peninsula. In addition, a toll-free number and website are available to those who cannot easily drive to a loan site. Loan site staff members can meet with consumers in their homes if necessary. There is no minimum amount that can be borrowed. The maximum is \$30,000. Loans are made to purchase any AT device or services that improve independence or quality of life. There is no discrimination based on age, (past loans have assisted people ages 12-100) or disability type. Equipment purchased through the ATLF has been used to assist with the following activities: seeing, hearing, talking, reaching, learning, socializing, mobility, and remembering.

Michigan's ATLF will increase acquisition of AT by helping individuals who may not qualify for traditional loans to be able to afford a new device. Because Michigan's ATLF has less restrictive financial eligibility requirements and is set up for purchasing AT, individuals who have been denied funding for devices through other traditional lenders can use our program to acquire the device.

During year one of this state plan, MDRC continued to manage the fiscal responsibilities of the program. United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan performed the operations of the program in processing, staffing the AT Loan Committee and Advisory Committee, promoting the ATLF, and overseeing the actual loans to individuals. During this year, the ATLF did not receive funding through the AT Program. Also during year one of this state plan, a plan to transition the funds to United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan was developed.

During year two, the fund will be transitioned to United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan as the Community-based organization who will operate the program during subsequent years. The MDRC Board approved the establishment of the AT Loan Fund with the expectation the AT Loan Fund would spin-off from MDRC

either within another organization or as its own entity. UCP Michigan has operated the fund under contract to MDRC since the funds were first established. UCP Michigan has performed the operations of the fund in an exemplary manner with integrity and commitment to the values and principles established with the funds.

The Department of Labor and Economic Growth - Michigan Rehabilitation Services (DLEG-MRS) and MDRC have determined the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund would currently operate more efficiently in its entirety with United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan (UCP Michigan) and operation of these funds is consistent with the mission and work of UCP Michigan.

Michigan's Telework Loan Program supports low-interest credit financing for individuals with disabilities to purchase computers, software, telecommunications systems, and other mechanical or electronic equipment, including adaptive equipment and/or home office modifications to perform telework/telecommuting. Loan proceeds can also be used to cover the cost of training needed to use the equipment properly, maintenance agreements, and extended warranties for the equipment, and maintenance and repair expenses for the equipment.

The Michigan Telework Loan Fund is operated in the same manner as the ATLF in that it too allows people to access AT who may not have been able to access it in other ways. The Michigan TLF increases access to and funding for assistive technology devices or services through a loan guarantee program. Consumers may use the TLF to acquire AT for employment. The TLF website (www.michiganloanfunds.org) contains frequently asked questions and information about the local sites at which consumers can apply for loan funds. Consumers may also call a toll free number to learn more about the TLF (800-828-2714).

The TLF is comprehensive and statewide, serving individuals with disabilities and their family members regardless of age, type of disability or type of AT needed. Because the TLF's purpose is to support employment, children will most likely not apply. There are six TLF sites throughout the State of Michigan including the Upper Peninsula. In addition, the toll-free number and website are available to those who cannot easily drive to a loan site. Loan site staff members can meet with consumers in their homes if necessary. There is no minimum amount that can be borrowed; the maximum is \$20,000. There is no discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity or disability type.

Our TLF will increase acquisition of AT by helping individuals who may not qualify for traditional loans to be able to afford a new device. Because our TLF has less restrictive financial eligibility requirements and is set up for purchasing AT and telework devices, individuals who have been denied funding for devices through other traditional lenders can use our program to acquire the device.

The Michigan Telework Loan Fund (TLF) was established through MDRC and began loaning funds in February of 2005. MDRC joined with United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan and the Financial Health Credit Union to offer this innovative program. Management of the program is the same as management of the ATLF. Also during year one of this AT State Plan, a plan to transition the funds to United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan was developed.

During year one of this state plan, MDRC continued to manage the fiscal responsibilities of the program. United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan performed the operations of the program in processing, staffing the AT Loan Committee and Advisory Committee, promoting the Telework fund, and overseeing the actual loans to individuals. Also during year one of this state plan, a plan to transition the funds to United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan was developed.

During year two, the fund will be transitioned to United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan as the community-based organization who will operate the program during subsequent years. The MDRC Board approved the establishment of the Telework Loan Fund with the expectation the Fund would spin-off from MDRC either within another organization or as its own entity. UCP Michigan has operated the fund under contract to MDRC since the funds were first established. UCP Michigan has performed the operations of the fund in an exemplary manner with integrity and commitment to the values and principles established with the funds.

The Department of Labor and Economic Growth - Michigan Rehabilitation Services (DLEG-MRS) and MDRC have determined the Michigan Telework Loan Fund would currently operate more efficiently in its entirety with United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan (UCP Michigan) and operation of these funds is consistent with the mission and work of UCP Michigan.

6.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities and collaborate with the appropriate entity, if the comparable funds are

provided to, or the activities are conducted by, an entity other than the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity.

United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan (UCP MI) and the Michigan AT Program have agreed to continue to meet on a regular basis to coordinate activities. Additionally, a staff member of UCP MI will continue to attend the AT Advisory Council meetings and a staff member of the AT Program will continue to be a member of the ATLF and Telework Loan Fund Advisory Councils.

Attachment 7: State Flexibility

7.1 Activity – Identify each State-level activity the State is choosing not to carry out.

Device Loan: Subcontractors who did start device loan programs under the previous act found them difficult to maintain due to costs involved in warehousing equipment, insurance, tracking and upkeep of devices.

7.2 Maintenance of Statewideness and Comprehensiveness – Demonstrate that the Statewide AT Program will continue to be comprehensive without conducting this activity.

Many different private and nonprofit groups in communities throughout the state do some level of device loans. In a Community Assistive Technology Assets Survey in one area of the state under the previous act, a group that wanted to start a device loan program found that there were a variety of local organizations that provided loaner equipment and an additional program was not needed in that area.

7.3 Achievement of Measurable Goals - Demonstrate that the State can reach its measurable education goals, employment goals, telecommunications and information technology goals, and community living goals without conducting such activities.

The state will meet our goals for access to AT in areas through the device demonstration program. See section 5.4.

7.4 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity will coordinate activities and collaborate with entities in the State that do conduct this activity, if the State chooses not to conduct this activity because another entity already conducts it.

As the state program completes activities under the other three activities and in the state leadership activities of Public Awareness and Coordination and Collaboration over the next three years, the AT Program will be collecting information about available Equipment Loan programs and develop a strategy to address any gaps in the future as additional resources become available. The program is considering

making information about equipment loan programs available on the ATXchange website in the future.

Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities

8.1 Training and Technical Assistance Activities – Describe how the State will provide training and technical assistance to enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals from local settings statewide, including representatives of State and local educational agencies, other State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education and businesses as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(i) of the AT Act.

The program's primary method of delivery of training will be through local organizations and qualified subcontracts. A system to subcontract with consumer-directed local groups and organizations has been developed to provide training and technical assistance statewide to enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of targeted individuals and groups in their areas of the state. Information about subcontract opportunities has been made available through the program's web page and through targeted mailings to consumer-directed groups and organizations. The program's previously developed training will be made available to local sites through train-the-trainer sessions where appropriate. More information about training can be found at <http://www.copower.org/At/awaretrain.htm>.

During year one, the program subcontracted for training from six organizations and the trainings developed and delivered in the first part of year one include:

- AT for Community Transition (Long term care conference)
- AT for people with cognitive disabilities,
- AT Awareness and benefits of AT
- Individualizing AT
- Individual rights to AT
- Visit ability & Accessible Housing
- Hiring and Accommodation an aging and diverse workforce
- AT in Education – Learning & Cognitive Disabilities
- 7 Steps to Accessible Technology

Transition

The AT Act requires that the AT Program specifically focus on training and AT around transition. This includes transition for students with disabilities who are leaving high school for employment or post-secondary education and transition for those entering or maintaining community living.

Transition to Community Living

Two of our project staff members have been appointed by the governor to serve on the Michigan Long-Term Care Services and Supports Commission. MDRC will work closely with local initiatives that transition people from nursing homes to the community by including AT information in every long term care presentation and training we deliver throughout the state. We also will encourage the inclusion of AT for community living in training delivered by subcontractors. Two subcontractors provided training at the Long Term Care conference during the first part of year one.

Transition from School to Adult Life

The program will continue to be a member of the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) advisory committee. The program has provided support for youth activities which promote access to AT and also provided training on AT issues at the yearly forum. MYLF plans to branch out and support local activities for youth in transition as funding allows. Two subcontractors provided awareness to 34 delegates at the MYLF in year one of this plan. One subcontractor in year one provided public awareness at the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transition Conference.

8.2 Public Awareness Activities – Describe how the State will provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(ii) of the AT Act.

The AT Program will use a multifaceted approach (mailings, internet, exhibits, presentations, and trainings) to increase awareness about the benefits of assistive technology devices and services, the types of AT devices and services available, funding for AT devices and services, and policies related to AT. Information about current public awareness activities through subcontractors can be found at: www.copower.org/At/awaretrain.htm. The AT Program staff and staff at subcontracted organizations provide the following public awareness activities:

Information & Referral

The AT Program will support, both through subcontracts and through training and technical assistance, local contractors providing Information and Referral using the existing network of CILs and other community-based organizations with an emphasis on consumer-directed organizations. The goal is to provide free information and referral services on AT for people of all ages with all disabilities. Family members, services providers and others who work in fields related to disabilities or AT may also use this service. Information will be provided to those who call on the availability, benefits, appropriateness and cost of AT devices and services. Many local contractors bring their toll-free telephone line and existing consumer satisfaction process. State Centers for Independent Living regularly provide information about AT. Michigan's program will work with Centers to improve the AT information provided in year 2, through coordination and collaboration with the Disability Network/Michigan, the association of Centers for Independent Living. Additionally, during the first part of year one, the program provided specific contracts to underserved areas and populations. As a result, one rural CIL was able to provide AT information and referral through phone and email. All together, 237 people received information about AT devices, 92 about AT policy and funding and 61 about AT related disability topics in this unserved area. A subcontract with the Michigan Association of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People helped 164 people with information about AT through phone and email contracts the first part of the year.

Newsletter

The program will continue to publish an e-mail based newsletter (AT Connections) at least 10 times a year on Michigan AT activities, statewide issues and resources for AT. This newsletter is currently distributed to over 200 people. It is delivered in an accessible format and is also available on the program's web page at <http://www.copower.org/At/news.htm>.

Website

The program will also continue to maintain and enhance the Communities of Power website at www.copower.org, which includes AT information and links.

Conferences, fairs and other local activities:

The AT Program will have a presence at numerous conferences, including local events and the Michigan Rehabilitation Conference, Michigan Works Conference and Michigan Transition Conference, to provide information through presentations and a vendor booth. In the past, these conferences have been attended by a wide range of professionals, parents, and consumers with disabilities. Conferences will serve a dual role by providing both public awareness and training, and will be

geared to serve the needs of experts and novices alike. Fairs, such as those aimed at seniors, will also continue to serve as a way to reach people with information about AT. The program will target information about AT to Native Americans in the Upper Peninsula through public awareness activities at powwows.

During the first part of year one, subcontractors have provide public awareness at the Senior Summit in Traverse City, the Senior Health and Fitness Day Expo in Grand Rapids, the Michigan Affordable Housing Conference in Lansing, the Michigan Association of Home Builders Conference in Sault St. Marie, the Bay Mills Powwow, the Hearing Technology Expo and in collaboration with Lion's club members, presented in Fremont, Yale, Fort Gratiot and Cadillac (Senior Expo Fairs) and Traverse City, MI on hearing assistive technology, the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum the Long term care conference, and the Eastern Upper Peninsula Student Transition Conference.

Disability Agenda

In 1993, Disability advocates created *Disability Agenda: Investing in Our Common Future*, signed by 17 disability organizations, including MDRC. The Agenda includes disability issues and solutions for policymakers in the areas of Access to Health Care, Long Term Community Supports, Affordable Accessible Housing, Employment, Accessible Public Transportation, Quality Inclusive Education for All Children, Decriminalization of Mental Illness, Protection of Disability Rights, and Improving the Responsiveness of Government. In 2005, MDRC worked with others to develop the updated Disability Agenda. There are now 30 organizations signed on to this agenda. A section on AT was added to the newest version. Partners continue to plan for an "enhanced" Agenda for the web, a pocket-sized foldout version and a CD to include much supplementary material.

Other Organizational Newsletters

The program will also continue to provide articles about Assistive Technology to other organizations' newsletters.

8.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures, or funding for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, service providers, and others to improve access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) of the AT Act.

The Implementing Agency (MDRC) and the Lead Agency (MRS) will continue to work together to ensure coordination of the State's VR program and AT Program. Additional coordination and collaboration will be sought with the State's VR Blind Agency, State Educational Agency and other public and private agencies and entities. The AT Program will also participate on other task forces sponsored by state agencies, by being a member of consumer groups, advocacy groups, and disability networks throughout the state, and through independent efforts.

AT Advisory Council

The AT Advisory Council will play a major role in how Michigan will coordinate activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures, or funding for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, services providers, and others to improve access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

Disability Voice

The program will continue to be a partner in Disability Voice. Since 1995, eleven organizations have joined together to make it easier and more effective for Michigan citizens with disabilities to make their priorities known to planners throughout state government. Each of these organizations commits resources to help local community coalitions hold Town Hall meetings annually at various sites throughout Michigan. These town hall meetings provide an opportunity to promote awareness of assistive technology. In small group discussions, local citizens with disabilities tell those who must plan for the use of state and federal funds what actually makes a difference in their lives, supporting their personal efforts to achieve community inclusion and employment. Citizen dreams and hopes are summarized and broadly distributed to ensure that statutorily required resource allocation plans reflect consumer priorities. Topics discussed include employment, independent living, personal and family supports, assistive technology, and transportation. For more information please see:

<http://www.misilc.org/DisabiltyVoice.htm>

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program

MDRC participated in developing AT recommendations for this group. The program will continue to coordinate with the Department of Community Health that has the primary responsibility for implementation.

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council/Health Subcommittee

MDRC will continue to bring AT to the table through participation in this workgroup.

Department of Community Health Consumer Task Force

MDRC will continue to participate in the Consumer Task Force. This group provides oversight to all Department of Community Health New Freedom Initiative grants from the federal government. These grants promote, “tearing down barriers to inequality by increasing access to assistive technologies, expanding educational opportunities, increasing the ability of Americans with disabilities to integrate into the workforce, and promoting increased access into daily community life.” As MDRC continues to work with the Department of Community Health to rebalance long-term care policy we will advocate for recognition of AT as an important tool/resource that supports people to remain in their homes and communities. AT is a central element in developing a Person-Centered Plan through the emerging model of Single Points of Entry and Money Follows the Person. AT can assist the direct care workforce in safely providing support to participants. AT, personalized to the long-term care participant, can extend active lives in our communities.

Housing

The program will continue to collaborate with other groups such as the Developmental Disability Council’s Housing Work Group and the Michigan Association of Centers for Independent Living (MACIL) Housing Work Group to promote universal design and visitability.

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service

The AT program will continue close collaboration with Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services’ AT team with quarterly meetings. We will explore the possibility of working together on issues and programs.

State Programs

Program staff members have been appointed by the governor to the State Independent Living Council. Staff will continue to participate as time permits at meetings of the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, the Michigan Rehabilitation Advisory Council, the Michigan Commission for the Blind and other governor-appointed groups.

Attachment 9: Involvement of Public and Private Entities

9.1 Nature and Extent of Resources – Describe the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators to assist in accomplishing identified goals.

Public and private resources have contributed significant financial resources in excess of \$100,000 to provide match for the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund and Telework Loan Funds. It is anticipated that such commitment will continue to enable the AFPs to draw down Federal funding requiring matching funds.

9.2 Mechanisms to Ensure Coordination – Describe the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the implementing entity, if any, and the State.

MDRC, the implementing entity enters into an agreement with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth—MRS for the purposes of implementing this program. This agreement sets forth the activities that must be conducted by MDRC. The lead agency provides oversight to the program and participates in the Advisory Council. The grants administrator and program directors meet on a regular basis. MDRC completes state-required quarterly and final reports that strengthen coordination and collaboration. In addition, monthly e-newsletters are sent by MDRC to the staff of the lead agency to keep them informed about AT and AT issues/conferences.

9.3 Involvement of State Advisory Council – Describe the nature and extent of the involvement of the State Advisory Council in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting the measurable goals required in section 4(d)(3).

The State Advisory Council assists in the planning and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including the setting of measurable goals and the evaluating of the extent to which the goals have been met. The Advisory Council met to review the submission of this plan and will review progress towards implementing this plan at regularly scheduled meetings as described above.

Attachment 10: State Support

10.1 State Support for State-level Activities – If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State-level activities described in section 4(e)(2).

Not Applicable

10.2 State Support for State Leadership Activities – If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State Leadership activities described in section 4(e)(3), if applicable.

Not Applicable

Attachment 11: Allocation and Utilization of Funds

11.1 Tracking Expenditures – Describe planned procedures for tracking expenditures for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

Generally accepted accounting procedures in full accordance with relevant EDGAR and OMB Circulars will be used to track expenditures under this grant. MDRC uses Quickbooks for Non-profits that divides all expenses by grant classification and accounting numbers specific to the expense. Under this program, expenses will be tracked under each of the two State Level and four State Leadership activities. MDRC's Administrative Director currently manages over 20 funding streams using this methodology. At any time, a report can be obtained to monitor expenditures to assure that MDRC is in compliance with the percentages and budget amounts as per the State Plan. It will be the responsibility of the Program Directors to monitor expenditures on a monthly basis.

11.2 Proposed Budget Allocations – Attach a budget containing proposed allocations for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

The following are proposed budget allocations for State Leadership and State Level Activities for Year 1 and 2 of the program. Michigan proposes to use the FY 05 award and approximately half of the FY 06 award for year one. For year two, Michigan proposes to use the remaining half of the 06 award and the FY 07 award. Since the award amount for FY 07 is an estimate, the amounts, but not the distribution for year two are also estimated to assume level funding. See the following chart for details:

Proposed Allocation	Distribution	Total Award Amount			
		Year One		Year Two	
State Level Activities	70%	\$541,115		\$560,874	
State Leadership Activities	30%	\$231,849		\$239,231	
Leadership	(95% of 30%)	220,257		227,269	
Transition	(5% of 30%)	11,592		11,962	
TOTAL	100%	\$772,964		\$800,105	

Within the above budget, Michigan's AT Program proposes to apportion funds for specific activities in the following manner.

State Level Activities	Proposed Allocation	
	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
State Financing Activities	\$0	\$0
Device Reutilization Program	\$239,619	\$248,833
Device Loan Program	\$0	\$0
Device Demonstration Program	\$301,496	\$312,041

State Leadership Activities**Proposed Allocation**
Year 1 **Year 2**

Training and Technical Assistance Activities	\$83,466	\$86,123
Transition	\$11,592	\$11,962
Public Awareness Activities	\$64,910	\$66,985
Coordination and Collaboration	\$71,873	\$74,161

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Applicants must review the requirements for certification regarding lobbying included in the regulations cited below before completing this form. Applicants must sign this form to comply with the certification requirements under 34 CFR Part 82, "New Restrictions on Lobbying." This certification is a material representation of fact upon which the Department of Education relies when it makes a grant or enters into a cooperative agreement.

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 34 CFR Part 82, for persons entering into a Federal contract, grant or cooperative agreement over \$100,000, as defined at 34 CFR Part 82, Sections 82.105 and 82.110, the applicant certifies that:

- (a) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making of any Federal grant, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal grant or cooperative agreement;
- (b) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal grant or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions;
- (c) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subgrants and contracts under grants and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above certification.

NAME OF APPLICANT	PR/AWARD NUMBER AND / OR PROJECT NAME
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth	H224A060022 / Assistive Technology Program
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
Robert W. Swanson, Director, MI Department of Labor & Economic Growth	
SIGNATURE	DATE